

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: January 18, 2013

To: Council Vice President Robert Lilligren and IGR Chair Elizabeth Glidden

Referral to: Committee of the Whole – IGR Subcommittee

Subject: Federal Agenda

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Approved by:
Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri, IGR Director

Recommendation: Amend the FY 2013 Federal Agenda Policy Initiatives section by adding the following:

Immigration Reform. It is anticipated that the President will send to Congress a proposal to reform the nation's immigration policies. In developing a national immigration policy the city recommends that the President and Congress consider the following policy principles:

- 1. Establish a "common sense" immigration system for undocumented immigrants. The system should be a roadmap to permanent residency and eventual citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants. The roadmap could include registration, background checks, and knowledge of American civics, the economy and English.
- 2. Protects the unity and sanctity of the family, including the families of bi-national and same-sex couples, by reducing the family backlogs and keeping spouses, parents and children together.
- Ends the exploitation of U.S. and immigrant workers by providing sufficient, safe, and legal avenues for foreign workers to fill legitimate gaps in our workforce, with full labor rights, protection from discrimination, and a reasonable path to permanency that lifts up wages and working conditions for all workers and their families;
- 4. Ensures smart and accountable enforcement that promotes the safety of our communities;
- 5. Attracts the best and the brightest investors, innovators, and skilled professionals, including those in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies, to

help strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build a brighter future for all Americans;

- 6. Builds on the extraordinary success of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and incorporates DREAMers—those who were brought to the U.S. at a young age and are Americans but for a piece of paper—into the mainstream of life in the United States through a path to citizenship so that America benefits from their scholastic achievements, military service and pursuit of their dreams;
- 7. Includes a balanced, workable solution for the agriculture industry that ensures agricultural workers have a route to citizenship and employers have the workers and American agriculture continues to lead in our global economy;
- 8. Strengthens our commitment to providing protection to those fleeing persecution and torture, holding true to our deeply held belief in the freedom to be who you want to be and say what you want to say; and
- 9. Renews our commitment to citizenship, to ensure all workers pay their fair share of taxes, fully integrate into our way of life and bear the same responsibilities as all Americans and reaffirms our shared belief that the Citizenship Clause of the Constitution is a fundamental freedom that must be preserved.

Previous Directives: The 2013 Federal Agenda does include a policy supporting the equal treatment of lawful permanent residents which is similar to principle #2. The Agenda also includes a policy supporting the implementation of the "deferred action" directive which relates to principles 2, 5 and 6.

Supporting Information

The principles were prepared by the Latino Engagement Task Force.